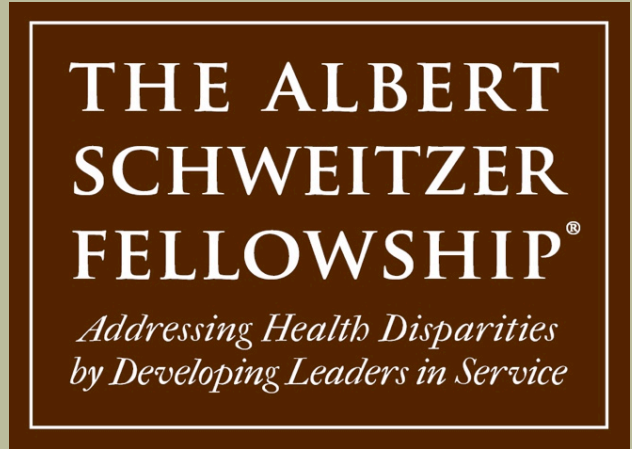


THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.



“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

ABC Smiles



Introduction

Childhood dental cavities affect one in five 5-11 year olds and one in seven 12-19 year olds. In Franklin county and in lower income households, that average doubles. The problems associated with untreated cavities can lead to difficulty eating, speaking, and learning. *ABC Smile* is an education program developed to teach the importance of brushing, flossing, and a healthy diet to promote oral health and prevent decay.

Population

ABC Smiles is based at **West Franklin Elementary School (WFES)**. Eighty-five percent of the 600 students receive free or reduced price lunches. English is a second language for about half of the student body. Twenty-one first languages are spoken, the most of any schools in South-Western City School District.

Project

- A comprehensive dental education curriculum consisting of a one-time dental literacy program and a weekly after school club
- After school club with select first, second, and third graders whose parents signed them up
- Presented Lessons In A Lunch Box to all kids in grades 1-3

Partners

- Faculty and staff of West Franklin Elementary School
- The Children’s Oral Health Initiative (COHI)
- 7 College of Dentistry student volunteers

Impact

- Educated 363 elementary students and 15 recurring patients.
- Provided 363 dental literacy lunch boxes.



The Future

- **Sustainability**- Student National Dental Association will implement dental education and the partnership with the COHI, for Lessons In A Lunch Box
- **Expansion**- ABC Smiles will be introduced to other local elementary schools in the Columbus area
- **Development**- increased student participation



Testimonial

“ABC Smiles, an opportunity afforded to us by our Schweitzer Fellow, provided our students with not only extended learning opportunities related to dental health, but learning that came to them in a personal and nurturing manner.”

- Dr. Dawn Lauridsen, Principal, West Franklin Elementary School



McKenzie Maynor
College of Dentistry

